

CATAWBA COUNTY EXTENSION DIRECTOR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

Fred Miller, Catawba County's Extension Director, was recently elected President of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) during NACAA's 92nd Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference, held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Miller is the first and only agent from North Carolina ever elected to serve as Association President.

Miller is seen on the right in the photo, taking his Oath Of Office from NACAA's retiring Past President, Mickey Cummings.



"I look forward to the opportunities and challenges of this important role," said Miller. "Throughout its 92 years, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents has had a tremendous impact on the quality of life in the United States and I'm proud to be a part of that legacy."

Miller said that, as a part of his responsibilities, he and other North Carolina Cooperative Extension Agents are planning to host the 2008 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"I look forward to showing Agricultural Agents from across the country that North Carolina is indeed a 'Place to Grow' - the theme for the 2008 NACAA Annual Meeting," Miller said. "Another goal for my year as President is working with the NACAA Board to establish an on-line professional journal dedicated to publishing peer reviewed articles on research conducted specifically by Agricultural Extension Agents."

Miller has served as President-Elect of NACAA for the past year and as Vice-President of the Association for the previous year. He was one of over 1400 Cooperative Extension Service agricultural agents and their families who attended the week-long professional improvement program.

"We congratulate Fred on his election as NACAA President," said Catawba County Assistant County Manager, Lee Worsley, who oversees the Cooperative Extension Service's work from the County's perspective. "We're proud of the work he has done here in Catawba County, and across the state and nation and delighted NACAA has recognized his leadership!"

"NACAA delegates meet each year to consider business for the organization and provide training for agents to help them conduct better educational programs," said Miller said. "We provide our members with professional training and support. Agents honor their peers and give special recognition to selected agents who have reached distinguished milestones in their careers."

In addition to Miller's election, some of the program highlights included educational presentations by peers, exhibits and displays regarding the contrasting of water quality and health issues in rural and urban communities; sustainable approaches to conventional landscaping; and building entrepreneurial capacity for agriculture.

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